

have 6 months to vacate the territory. Unsatisfied that the judge had given O. H. ample time to leave, the complainant in the case appealed and the matter was elevated to the Territorial Supreme Court.

Abner Francis was incensed by the fact that such a law existed in the so-called free territory of Oregon. He described the plight of his brother and detailed the case made before the Supreme Court in a letter to his friend and fellow civil rights advocate, Frederick Douglass. When Judge Orville Pratt ruled against the defense, giving O. H. 4 months to leave the territory, Abner engaged Col. William M. King, then the representative of Portland's district in the State legislature. Representative KING agreed to try to repeal the law outright. The law was not repealed until 1926, but a group of outraged Portlanders, led by Abner, successfully petitioned for an exemption for O. H.

Douglass wasted no time in publishing Francis's letter. Many abolitionists and civil rights leaders were learning of racial injustices in the undeveloped West for the first time when they read of O. H. Francis's case.

Outspoken men and women like Abner Francis forced Oregonians and the Nation to acknowledge that the bitter struggle for equality was to be fought not just in the East, but also in the farthest reaches of the American West. Francis must be recognized as one of the first vocal advocates for racial equality in Oregon. Today, I honor Abner Hunt Francis for his contributions.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. MCCASKILL. Madam President, today I attended the funeral of Connie Karr, my neighbor and city councilwoman in Kirkwood, MO, which is my home. Connie Karr died in a tragic attack on the Town Hall of Kirkwood. I was therefore unable to be present for two rollcall votes taken by the Senate. Had I been, I would have voted aye on the motion to invoke cloture on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2082, the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2008. I would have further voted aye on final passage of H.R. 2082.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING DEBRA BROWN STEINBERG

• Mr. COLEMAN. Madam President, today I want to recognize the accomplishments of Ms. Debra Brown Steinberg. Last year, Ms. Steinberg received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations for her services in representing the families of noncitizen victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. With this award, she joins past no-

table recipients such as former Presidents Gerald Ford, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton.

Ms. Steinberg has worked tirelessly to help the families of 9/11 victims. She played a leading role in the creation of the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest 9/11 Project shortly after the attacks. Ms. Steinberg was a driving force in the creation of the 9/11 Victims Compensation Fund, which provided a total of \$7 billion to the families of those killed in the attacks, and she drafted a substantial portion of the New York 9/11 Victims and Families Relief Act. Over the 6 years following that tragic day, her selfless service to these families has never ceased.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor is only the latest in a series of honors that have been appropriately awarded to Ms. Steinberg. In 2006, she received the American Bar Association's Pro Bono Publico award for her many extraordinary efforts on behalf of the families of 9/11 victims, which she performed without compensation. Her public services have also been honored twice by the U.S. House of Representatives, in a New York State Senate resolution, and by New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg. Ms. Steinberg's work was also featured in the documentary film entitled "The Legal Community's Response to September 11th" and in a similar study entitled "Public Service in a Time of Crisis."

Ms. Steinberg's service should serve as an inspiration not only her peers in the legal profession but to all Americans.

##### RECOGNIZING THE GARFIELD-PALOUSE HIGH SCHOOL

• Mrs. MURRAY. Madam. President, today I recognize the Garfield-Palouse High School Junior Engineering Technical Society, JETS, design team from Washington State. These outstanding young students and their teacher, Mr. Jim Stewart, are finalists in the National Engineering and Design Challenge.

The Garfield-Palouse JETS team researched and built a prototype paraplegic agricultural lift to meet this year's National Engineering and Design Challenge to design a device to assist disabled people in the workplace. Their work to build this lift was inspired by their desire to help a classmate and will allow access to agriculture equipment for individuals with a disability. Agriculture is an important part of Washington State's economy, and I am pleased these students worked on a project that highlights a local industry and will help individuals with disabilities attain greater independence.

The JETS program at Garfield-Palouse High School is an integral tool to empower students to take a deeper look at understanding and addressing problems that many individuals with disabilities face.

I would like to commend Colby Cocking, Beau Fisher, Spencer Gray, Anna

Iverson, Travis Mallett, Sean Neal, Miles Pfaff, Aaron Rager, Katie Redman, Steven Tronsen, and Jim Stewart for their accomplishments. Washington State is fortunate to have a talented and motivated team that placed in the top 5 out of over 100 entries in this unique and rewarding competition. I am proud of the dedication and hard work of these students from Washington State. I wish the team well in the final round of competitions.●

##### RECOGNIZING SIOUX FALLS SEMINARY

• Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Sioux Falls Seminary located in Sioux Falls, SD, as they celebrate their 150th anniversary.

The Sioux Falls Seminary is a North American Baptist Seminary, which prides itself on the strength of their Bible focused curriculum and the valuable hands on ministry experience that they provide their students. The dedication of the Sioux Falls Seminary to educating its students for more than 150 years is truly commendable. I am proud to have such a fine institution in the State of South Dakota.

I would like to offer my congratulations to the Seminary of Sioux Falls on this milestone accomplishment and wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

##### TRIBUTE TO SARA MELLEGARD

• Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I honor Sara Mellegard of Rapid City, SD, who has been named the Black Hills Workshop Artist of the Year. This is an impressive accomplishment that reflects Sara's hard work and dedication and I am proud to have such a fine young artist representing the state of South Dakota.

Sara has developed her artistic skills with the help of the staff and resources at the Suzie Cappa Center for Art Expression and Enjoyment, which is part of the Black Hills Workshop. In addition to her painting, Sara also draws and works with ceramics. As a result of her award, Sara's work will be displayed at the Suzie Cappa Center, the Dahl Fine Arts Center and a reproduction of one her paintings, Doves, will be available for purchase as a postcard.

It gives me great pleasure to recognize Sara Mellegard and to congratulate her on receiving this well-earned award. I wish her continued success in the years to come.●

##### TRIBUTE TO JIM WHITE

• Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I honor Mr. Jim White, who is being recognized by the Wellspring Treatment Center in Rapid City, SD, for his many years of service to the local community, his outstanding generosity, and his dedication to encouraging local small businesses. It is people like Jim who make up the backbone of South Dakota's communities.